



WHO/UNICEF JOINTLY ASSISTED ACTIVITIES

Report by the Director-General

I. GENERAL

At the twenty-third session of the WHO Executive Board the Director-General submitted a report on the developments in regard to relations with UNICEF and Joint WHO/UNICEF activities up to the September 1958 session of the UNICEF Executive Board.¹

The present document reports the developments that have taken place since that date and in particular the decisions taken by the UNICEF Executive Board at its March session, that have a bearing on the work of WHO.

II. THE UNICEF EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING IN MARCH 1959

1. Introduction

The UNICEF Executive Board held a meeting at the Palais des Nations, Geneva, Switzerland, on 2 to 12 March 1959. Some members of the Board visited jointly assisted field projects in Tunisia, Yugoslavia and Poland as well as the International Children's Centre in Paris. The Directors of WHO and UNESCO and the Deputy Directors General of ILO and FAO attended. WHO was able to have its specialists deal with the technical aspects of the health programmes raised during the Board.

2. Allocation of UNICEF Funds

2.1 The Board approved all the recommendations for allocations submitted to it by the UNICEF Administration. Seventeen programmes were aided for the first time: eight for Nutrition; four for Tuberculosis; three for Basic Maternal and Child Welfare Services; one for Yaws and one for Malaria Eradication. A total of 71 allocations were made, amounting to \$ 10 277 000.

¹ See Annex 16, Off. Rec. Wld Hlth Org. 91

2.2 The following table shows the percentage distribution of the resources of UNICEF as approved by the UNICEF Executive Board for the period March 1955 to March 1959 inclusive:

	1955	1956	1957	1958	March 1959
Maternal and Child Welfare	24.4	17.9	31.4	29.28	17.0
Communicable Disease Control	56.6	50.1	46.8	56.61	39.3
Nutrition	12.9	20.1	19.9	12.23	43.7
Emergency Aid	6.1	11.9	1.9	1.88	0

3. General Progress Report of the Executive Director of UNICEF

In a statement introducing his general progress report, the Executive Director called attention to an estimated increase by 12 per cent. over the next five years of the child population in countries receiving UNICEF aid. There was, therefore, more emphasis needed to help countries organize their own permanent services. The inter-relationship of the needs of children arising from hunger, disease and ignorance needed to be more fully recognized in UNICEF assisted policies. The proposals for the extension of aid to primary education were vital to all categories of UNICEF assistance. If countries were to develop balanced services that policy should not be interpreted as a lessening of interest in the types of activity in the fields of health and nutrition at present being assisted. He called special attention to four important areas of opportunity, namely, basic maternal and child welfare services, malaria, nutrition and trachoma and related eye diseases.

4. Statement by the Director-General of WHO to the UNICEF Executive Board

The Director-General of WHO addressing the Board stated that their present session "coincided with important developments in the work of both UNICEF and WHO". UNICEF had greatly contributed to the remarkable results achieved by

joint efforts to bring the major communicable diseases under control. The Director-General recalled that the Executive Board of WHO had expressed its appreciation of UNICEF's valuable contribution to malaria eradication and the hope that the UNICEF Executive Board would see its way to maintaining the allocation of funds to this programme at or above the level reached during 1958, until such time as the disease had been eventually eradicated. Dr Candau then explained that the "period of operations" required for malaria eradication had had to be revised upwards to eight years; on the other hand the prospects of malaria eradication in Africa had lately improved. He concluded by emphasizing the importance of environmental sanitation and nutrition in the safeguarding of children and for which UNICEF had done so much by assisting the expansion of basic MCH and welfare services and the training of personnel at all levels.

5. Consideration by the UNICEF Executive Board of the UNICEF/WHO Joint Committee on Health Policy Report on its Eleventh Session¹

5.1 The report was introduced to the Board by the delegate of France who had been the chairman of the meeting.

5.2 The WHO representative drew attention to the recommendations concerning trachoma, leprosy, bilharziasis, malaria control and tuberculosis. At the chairman's invitation explanations were given about these programmes by the WHO specialists who each in turn dealt with the main features of the developments in his field.

5.3 The UNICEF Board approved all the recommendations of the Committee, namely those relating to trachoma, leprosy, bilharziasis, malaria and tuberculosis.

5.4 The WHO representative, Dr Kaul, recalled that the terms of reference and procedure of the Joint Committee had been discussed by the Executive Board of WHO at its twenty-third session. The WHO Executive Board had then agreed that further inter-secretariat consultations should take place and had requested the Director-General of WHO to carry out such consultations with the Executive Director of UNICEF and to report again to it at its twenty-fourth session (June 1959).

¹ Off. Rec. Wld Hlth Org. 91, Annex 16

5.5 The UNICEF Executive Board noted that the terms of reference of the JCHP are to be re-examined by the Committee at its next session to be held in October 1959, with a view to the submission of recommendations to the respective Boards of the two Organizations. A draft is to be prepared by the secretariats of the two Organizations for the Committee's consideration. Other items to be included on the agenda of the next committee session are reviews of experience in maternal and child health, milk distribution and environmental sanitation.

5.6 The UNICEF Executive Board designated the following persons to represent it at the 1959 session of the Joint Committee on Health Policy:

Chairman of the Executive Board: Mr J. Ryan (Australia)
Chairman of the Programme Committee: Mrs Z. Harman (Israel)
Dr K. Bain (United States)
Professor R. Debré (France)
Dr W. Germer (Federal Republic of Germany)

As alternates the Board designated:

Dr M. Daftari (Iran)
Dr V. Djukonovic (Yugoslavia)
Baron Gaffier d'Hestroy (Belgium)
Dr P. Garcia (Colombia)
Dr M. Slim (Tunisia)

6. Child Nutrition

6.1 Statement by the Deputy Director-General of FAO

Mr Wright expressed the hope that UNICEF would participate in the proposed "Free the World from Hunger" campaign. He referred to the active part taken by WHO in the newly established UNICEF/FAO Joint Policy Committee also to the joint WHO/FAO Survey for evaluating programmes for the distribution of dried milk, and finally to the UNICEF/FAO/WHO efforts to develop protein rich foods other than milk.

Thanking UNICEF for the \$ 75 000 allocated for FAO's work in 1959, he went on to describe jointly assisted projects as programmes "mostly developed at the village and community level, related in general to education and training in

nutrition, the study of methods for developing supply and consumption of nutritious foods and preliminary surveys". He indicated that the Milk Conservation Projects were being evaluated for determining whether a shift in emphasis might be desirable.

6.2 Report of the FAO/UNICEF Joint Policy Committee¹ - Report of the 1958 Session

The representative of Tunisia introduced the report and explained its contents. The FAO representative, commenting on the report, stated that "the Joint Committee had drawn particular attention to the fact that other organizations - WHO in particular - had important responsibilities in certain of the areas of work enumerated in the report". The FAO representative also alluded "to the improved co-ordination between FAO and WHO both at Headquarters and field levels".

6.3 The UNICEF Administration indicated that certain paragraphs of the report required specific action by the Board. One containing a recommendation concerning the terms of reference of the Joint Committee was adopted by the Board. The second recommendation concerning honoraria to be paid under certain conditions to local personnel engaged in nutrition survey work was also adopted by the Board, but one member wished his reservation on the matter to be placed on record. A third recommendation dealing with practical training for nutritional staff was also adopted by the Board. The UNICEF Executive Board also authorized the UNICEF Secretariat to hold inter-secretariat discussions with FAO concerning preparations for the "Free the World from Hunger" campaign. Any plans for UNICEF participation for this campaign was to be submitted to the UNICEF Executive Board in the form of a recommendation.

6.4 The Board followed the procedure it had adopted in 1958 regarding UNICEF representation for the next session of the FAO/UNICEF Joint Policy Committee, which is scheduled to meet in Rome in June 1959. It designated the following

¹ Document E/ICEF/R.622 and Corr.1

five Governments to represent UNICEF:

El Salvador
Italy
Philippines
Tunisia
Union of Soviet Socialist Republics

As alternates it designated:

Belgium
Czechoslovakia
Ecuador
Indonesia
New Zealand

The representatives nominated by these Governments will be submitted to the Executive Board for confirmation.

7. Reports requested by the UNICEF Executive Board

The Board requested the following reports:

- (1) An appraisal by WHO of the technical situation of the UNICEF assisted malaria projects to be presented to the September Board Session.
- (2) A statement by UNICEF in consultation with WHO on the present UNICEF commitments to the malaria eradication control projects and an estimate of the funds required for these projects for the next five years, also to be presented to the UNICEF Board at its September 1959 session.
- (3) A review by FAO and WHO of past experiences of UNICEF aid in milk distribution, for review by the Joint Policy Committees with FAO and WHO.
- (4) A report on the technical results so far achieved in the programme of research and testing for the development of new protein food products.

8. Primary Education

8.1 The general debate concentrated mainly on the proposed extension of UNICEF aid to primary education.

8.2 The Board adopted the following statement:

Considering that the age-old needs of children arising from hunger, disease and ignorance are inter-related and that each evil is part cause and part effect of the others, the Executive Board welcomes the report of the Executive Director; believes that UNICEF should concern itself with certain aspects of the struggle against ignorance; and thanks the Director-General of UNESCO for his advice and assistance to the Board in its consideration of this question.

In view of the limited resources at the disposal of UNICEF the Executive Board:

1. Considers that the activity of UNICEF in the realm of primary education should be confined at this stage to improving the standard of training of primary school teachers of both sexes in order to strengthen UNICEF's work in connexion with its traditional fields of interest, such as health, nutrition, hygiene, home economics, etc.; and to the extension of UNICEF's existing assistance to primary schools in such fields in the light of developing needs.
2. Decides that the Executive Director should be authorized to consider, in consultation with the competent specialized agencies, requests from governments for assistance on the above lines; and be asked to submit a limited number of trial projects for consideration at a future session of the Executive Board, with full details, including initial and continuing costs.
3. Recommends that these trial projects should, so far as possible, be within the framework of already existing programmes such as those aided by UNESCO, FAO, WHO or UNICEF itself.

9. Social Services for Children (Institutions and Day-Care Centres)

9.1 The report of the consultant to the United Nations Bureau of Social Affairs¹ was introduced by its author, who indicated that she had held consultations with WHO both at headquarters and regional level.

¹ E/ICEF/377

9.2 The report of WHO¹ was introduced by the WHO representative who explained, however, that the Organization had experienced some difficulty in the compilation of the report that had been requested of it.

9.3 The Board approved in principle the extension in UNICEF policy, as recommended by the Executive Director,² so that requests could be accepted along the lines set forth in that report. In summary, UNICEF aid would be given (1) for planning and establishing standards which would be developed with the expert advice of the United Nations Bureau of Social Affairs and interested specialized agencies who would give technical advice in their field of interest and also co-operate with the Bureau of Social Affairs in the organization of regional seminars, (2) for training, to be developed by the Bureau of Social Affairs with which the specialized agencies concerned are expected to co-operate. The aid for planning and establishing standards consists of: (a) honoraria for national staff engaged on full-time basis for a period of time in planning surveys and establishing standards and organization; (b) fellowships for attendance at regional seminars (when not available from other sources); (c) loan of transport for staff engaged in planning and establishing standards and organization. The aid for training consists of: (a) stipends for within-country training; (b) sharing costs of national teaching personnel for limited periods of time; (c) financial support for regional seminars for key training personnel; (d) provision of teaching materials, educational aids and books and (e) transport for field practice of students and training supervisors.

¹ E/ICEF/378 and Corr.1

² E/ICEF/R.678

10. UNICEF Appraisal 1959-1964

10.1 The Deputy Executive Director (Operations) in introducing the report¹ said that it had been prepared in response to ECOSOC resolution 694 (XXVI). He noted that the forecast of requests might have to be altered in the light of the Board's decision regarding aid to malaria eradication which was to be taken next September. He emphasized that the draft appraisal "plainly showed the trend of UNICEF work towards greater emphasis on assistance for the setting up of permanent national services in the basic fields of maternal and child welfare and of nutrition, and less to the work of disease control".

The Chairman of the UNICEF Executive Board explained that the draft programme appraisal had been circulated to members of the Board for their information and that the Board was not being asked to take any action in this connexion.

11. Economic and Social Council Twenty-seventh Session

At its meeting held on 23 April 1959 the Economic and Social Council adopted resolution 716 (XXVII) annexed to the present report, concerning the reports of the United Nations Children's Fund on the sessions held in New York in September 1958 and at Geneva in March 1959.

¹ E/ICEF/R.638 and Corr.1

RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL
716 (XXVII). United Nations Children's Fund
on 23 April 1959

The Economic and Social Council

Takes note with satisfaction of the reports of the Executive Board of the United Nations Children's Fund on the sessions which it held in New York in September 1958 and at Geneva in March 1959;

Congratulates the Executive Director of the United Nations Children's Fund and the Directors-General of the World Health Organization, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization on the close co-operation between UNICEF and the specialized agencies which was confirmed at the Executive Board's Geneva session;

Takes note of the recommendations made in the Executive Board's report of March 1959 for the submission to it, at the September 1959 session, of two reports on the situation of the malaria eradication programmes: a technical report by the World Health Organization on the results of the malaria control campaign and the real possibilities of eradicating that disease, and an administrative report by the Executive Director of UNICEF giving a financial balance sheet of the work in hand and making precise recommendations regarding the amount of UNICEF's contribution to WHO's anti-malaria campaigns for the next five years;

Expresses the hope that the World Health Organization and the United Nations Children's Fund will communicate those reports to Governments as soon as possible.

Urges Governments of Member States to continue to give their own malaria eradication programmes the greatest possible support and to communicate to the World Health Organization and the United Nations Children's Fund for the benefit of other Governments their views on the most suitable methods of organizing such campaigns within the framework of governmental administrations, taking into account the above-mentioned reports.

1065th plenary meeting,
23 April 1959